Appendix B – History

This history derives from the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared in 2003 by Allom Lovell & Associates (now Lovell Chen) and updated in 2011. It also incorporates research derived from more recent investigations into the site, primarily by Godden Mackay Logan and Context Pty Ltd.

Early settlement of Melbourne

In the mid-1830s, the Port Phillip District of New South Wales extended south of the Murray River to the coast and westwards past Portland Bay. It was settled as a result of private action flying in the face of government policy. The Henty brothers and others had already settled illegally at Portland Bay in November 1834. John Batman, representing the Port Phillip Association, a private company which had been formed in Van Diemen's Land, and John Pascoe Fawkner, a private speculator, arrived at the future site of Melbourne in 1835.

The Port Phillip Association had been founded for the express purpose of acquiring grazing lands at Port Phillip. On the basis of his infamous treaty with the Wurundjeri people, Batman and the Association claimed possession of the site of what later became Melbourne, as well as all the land to Indented Head in the south-west, and to Gisborne in the north (Doyle 2001, p. 523).

Although the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, declared the treaty void, official resistance to the fledgling settlement gradually gave way to support for exploitation of the new district and its developing wool industry. Bourke duly appointed Charles Joseph La Trobe as Superintendent of the Port Phillip District in 1839 and Melbourne was declared a City in 1847, when Queen Victoria signed the Letters Patent. When the district eventually separated from New South Wales in July 1851, and became the independent colony of Victoria, La Trobe remained as the first Lieutenant Governor of the colony until 1854.

Early Melbourne was essentially a port serving squatting interests; its main economic basis was the production and export of wool (Cannon 2000, p. 8). In Port Phillip, although the pastoral activities were spread over a huge hinterland area, the services and infrastructure required by the wool industry, including warehousing, stevedoring and finance, were focused on Melbourne. The port town also relied upon major imports including clothing, merchandise and food. In the 1840s, Melbourne and its evolving suburbs made up about one third of the 77,345 population of the Port Phillip District. In 1851, on the eve of the gold rushes and the huge increase in population which they would bring, Melbourne held about 23,000 of the total population (Cannon 2000, p. 8).

Burying their dead – Melbourne's first cemetery

The first settlers of Melbourne during 1836 were buried on 'Burial Hill', now the Flagstaff Gardens. A monument with the inscription 'to the memory of some of the earliest pioneers of this colony, whose remains are interred near this spot' was erected in 1921.

In 1837, an area of ten acres of land bounded by Peel, Fulton, Queen and Franklin Streets, just to the north-east of 'Burial Hill', was set aside by the Governor of New South Wales, Richard Bourke, for the purposes of establishing a cemetery. The first interments were conducted there in the same year (Austral Archaeology 2000, p. 8). In 1839 the site was officially declared the Melbourne Cemetery. The cemetery was surveyed by Robert Hoddle and divided into denominational areas (Figure 1). It is thought to be one of the first cemeteries in the English-speaking world to do so (Cannon 2000, p. 8). The Presbyterian and Episcopalian sections of the cemetery were the first to be formally laid out. By

1842, the Wesleyan, Independent and Roman Catholic sections had been laid out, as well as an area for Aboriginal people. The Jewish cemetery land was officially granted in December 1844 and the Society of Friends (Quakers) land was granted in November 1847. Each denominational section was managed by its own trustees (Godden Mackay Logan [GML] June 2013, pp. 2-3).

Isaac Selby's *Old Pioneers Memorial History of Melbourne*, published in 1924, provides a detailed description of the Old Melbourne Cemetery accompanied by photographs of many of the memorials. In relation to the division of the cemetery according to denomination, Selby observed:

> Two acres to the Episcopalians [Church of England], two acres to the Presbyterians, two acres to the Roman Catholics, one acre to the Independents, one acre to the Wesleyans, one acre to the Jews, half an acre to the Quakers, and half an acre to the Aboriginals. The convicts were buried just outside the northern end of the Cemetery in No Man's Land (Selby 1924, p. 7).
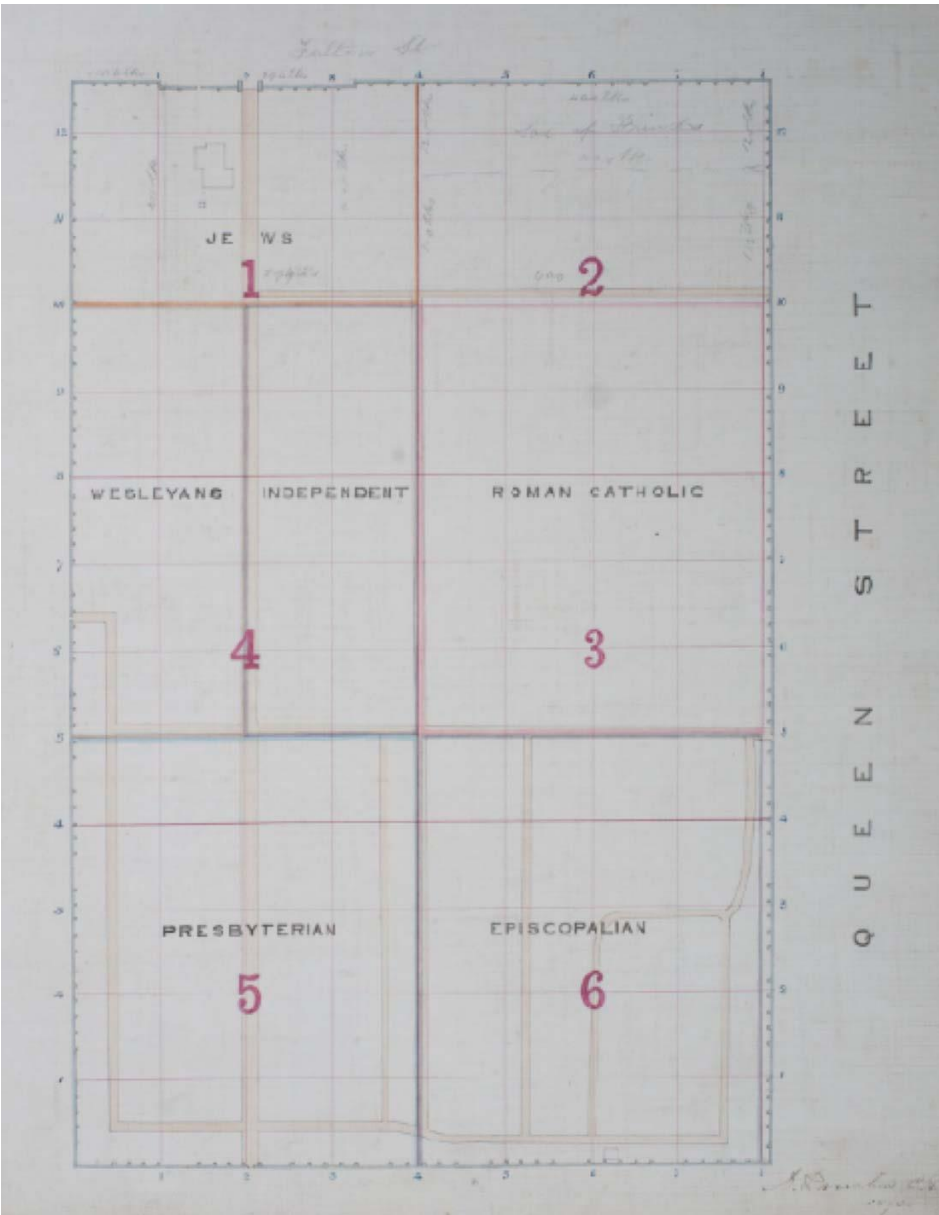

Figure 1 Site layout of the Old Melbourne Cemetery showing the denominational divisions, 1873

Source: VPRS 9582 Public Record Office Victoria

An early plan of Melbourne, dated 1855, shows that there were plans to surround the cemetery with formal gardens, however this did not eventuate (Figure 2).

While Melbourne contained a few additional small cemeteries, the Old Melbourne Cemetery was the only large-scale burial ground operating in metropolitan Melbourne prior to 1854. As such, it is likely that the vast majority of Melbourne's dead prior to 1854 were buried there (GML June 2013, p. 8). It is not possible to know the exact number of people buried in the cemetery due to a fire in 1864 that destroyed the cemetery lodge, along with the early burial records. Accounts suggest however, that between 8,000 and 10,000 people were buried at the cemetery. The State of Victoria Early Pioneer Index (1836-1888) records that between 1836 and 1854, 7,059 people living in the metropolitan Melbourne area had 'Melbourne' recorded as their place of death. Records from 1866 to the final burial in 1917 list the names of a further 371 people buried in the cemetery. Minutes from the QVM Committee dated 16 February 1921 states that 'the burials in the cemetery number between 8,000 and 10,000' (GML June 2013, p. 10). Writing in 1924, Selby also concluded that an estimated 'ten thousand were buried there' (Selby 1924, p. 7).
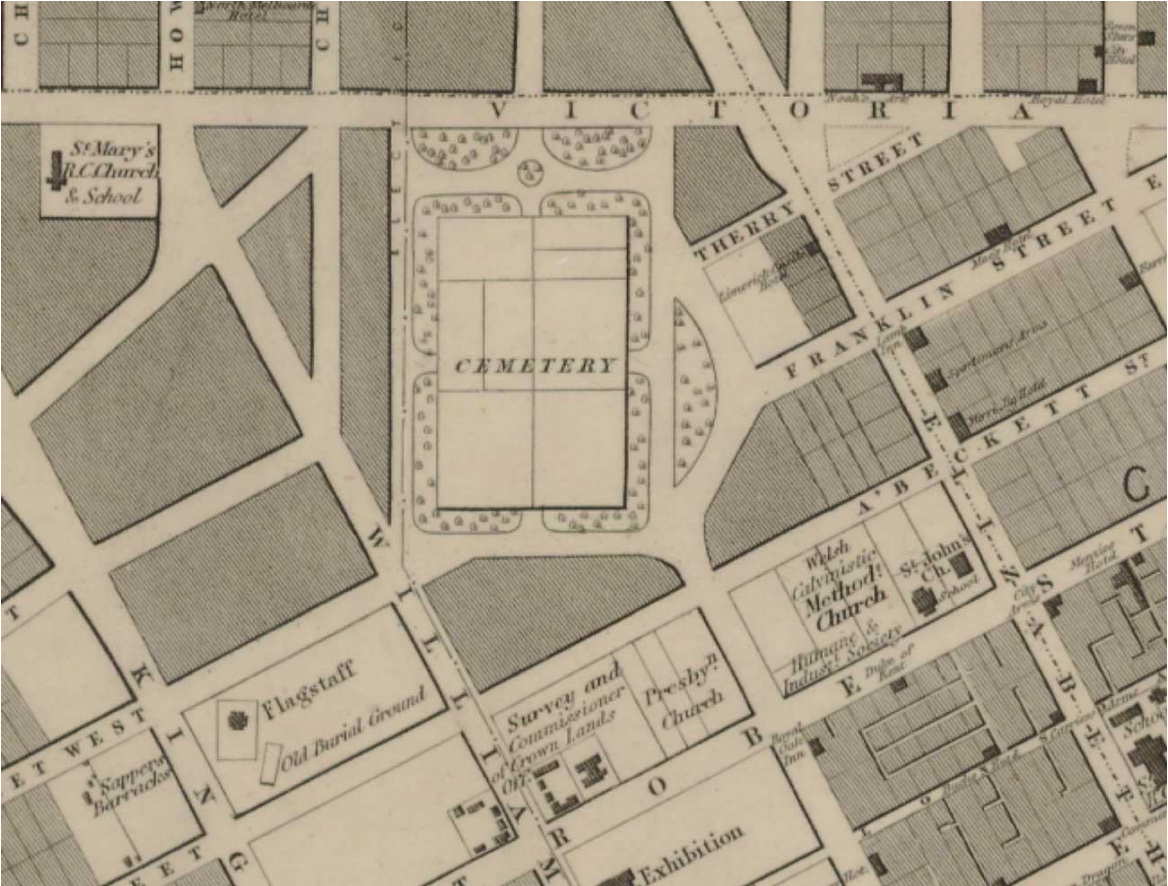

Figure 2 Kearney plan of 1855 showing the Old Melbourne Cemetery; note the proposed formal garden layout, and the 'old burial ground' at Flagstaff Hill to the south-west of the cemetery

Source: State Library of Victoria

Appropriation of the Old Melbourne Cemetery

By the late 1840s, the Council was looking for another cemetery site further away from the centre of town. Council claimed that the cemetery ground 'was in dangerous proximity to the inhabited portions of the city' and was becoming too small for the growing metropolis (GML April 2013, p. 4; June 2013, p. 7).

From 1851, the regulations allowed only people who already had claims on plots to be interred (VPRS 9589, Public Record Office Victoria) and in July 1853, a second cemetery, located in Carlton and called the Melbourne General Cemetery, was opened (Chambers 2001, p. 235). The Melbourne City Council applied to the government for 'an order to prohibit future interments in the old cemetery' and in June 1854 the Melbourne Cemetery, from then known as the Old Melbourne Cemetery, was closed (VPRS 9589, Public Record Office Victoria). It continued to be used however for the burial of those who had already purchased plots, with the last burial taking place in 1917. A plan of the cemetery was produced by the government surveyor in 1873. This plan recorded the surnames and locations of 855 tombstones (GML June 2013, p. 10).

Passage of the *Melbourne General Market Site Act* (the Act) on 11 October 1877 allowed the Town Council to take over 1.75 acres of cemetery land for expansion of the market site. This included the northern section of the Old Melbourne Cemetery, comprising all of the parts of the cemetery set aside for Aboriginal and Society of Friends (Quaker) burials, along with three quarters of the Jewish section. Burials in the remaining Jewish section were located close together in a small area near the corner of Peel and Fulton streets (Austral Archaeology 2000). The cemetery lodge, which had been rebuilt following the 1864 fire, was again demolished and rebuilt in the remaining section of the Jewish cemetery. This was probably removed in the 1920s in conjunction with the extension of the market sheds (GML June 2013, p. 12).

Extending the market over the existing Melbourne Cemetery presented problems for both the cemetery and the Council. Many of the burials had to be disturbed to clear the land for market purposes. The Act demanded that '…with all reasonable diligence cause enquiry to be made as to the number and position of the human bodies interred' therein...and shall cause all such bodies to be with all due care and respect exhumed therefrom and re-interred in the Melbourne General Cemetery' (*Melbourne General Market Site Act* 1877, p. 2).

Thomas Jennings, the undertaker responsible for the exhumations of the Quaker and Aboriginal sections of the Old Melbourne Cemetery to the Melbourne General Cemetery from November 1877 to March 1878 stated that he had removed 'about 69 bodies from the old cemetery'(GML June 2013, p. 12). Exhumed bodies were placed in coffins and removed to the new Melbourne General Cemetery at Carlton (Austral Archaeology 2000, p. 3).

There was a degree of public outcry in response to the changes to the cemetery. However, while meetings of public protest were staged in response to City Council proposals to use this 'sacred site' for other purposes, construction of market buildings on the resumed cemetery ground commenced in 1877 (Chambers 2001, p. 236). In accordance with parameters set down in the *Melbourne General Market Site Act* 1877, the south wall of F Shed also served as a wall to separate the market from the southern part of the cemetery (Austral Archaeology 2000, p. 3, Figure 4).

From 1900, the Melbourne City Council began moves to resume the remaining southern portion of the cemetery ground. However, strenuous objections from the public delayed any further resumption until passage of the *Melbourne General Markets Land Act* in 1917.
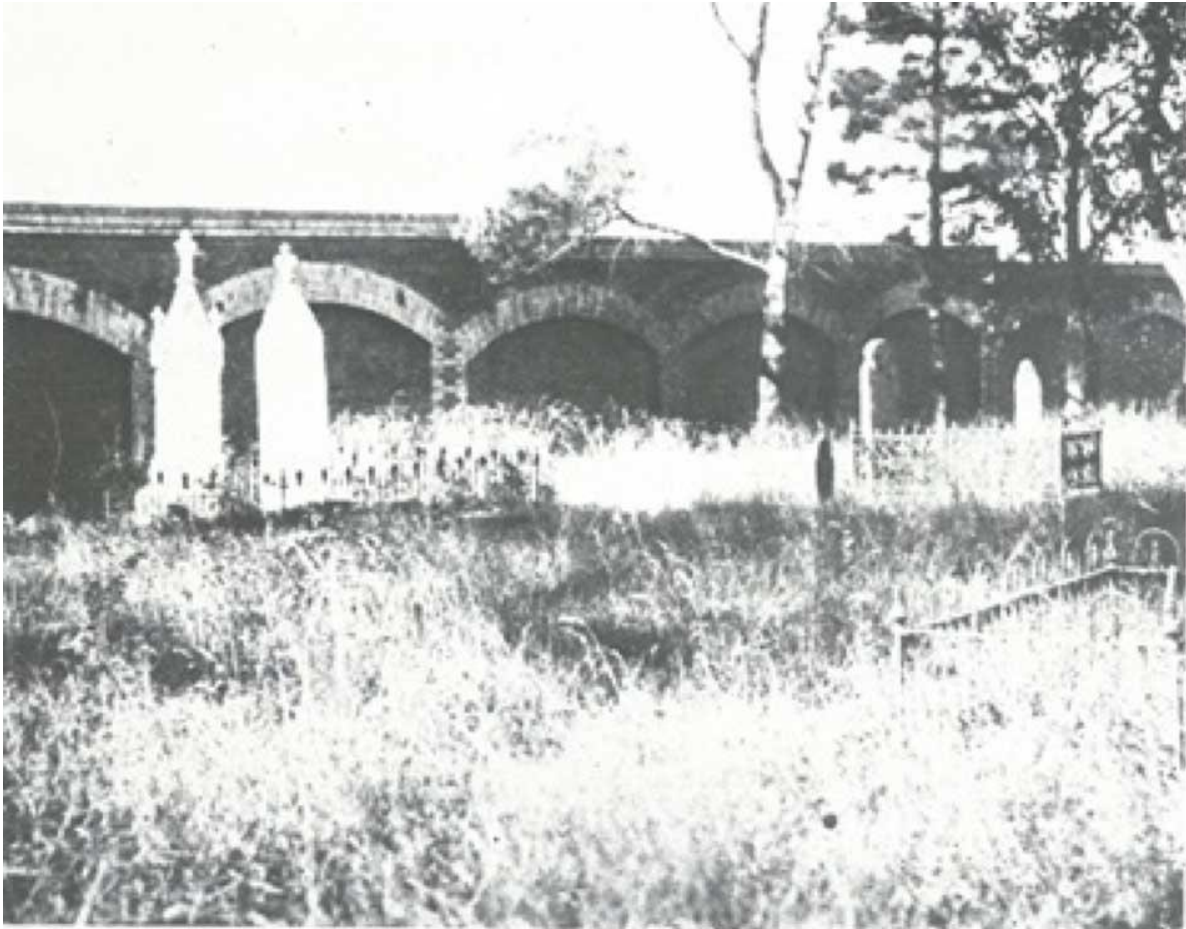
Figure 3 Looking north from the cemetery toward the Queen Victoria Market, showing the F Shed boundary wall, c 1900

Source: *The Victoria Market*

The closure of the Old Melbourne Cemetery

Expansion of the market site continued to encroach on the cemetery ground. The passage of the *Melbourne General Markets Land Act* 1917 was intended to regulate the transition of the site from cemetery to market as more land was formally acquired. Burials at the cemetery had continued sporadically from 1877, with the last interment taking place in 1917 (Austral Archaeology 2000, p. 3).

In 1917, the Melbourne City Council Surveyor was engaged to compile a detailed record of the names on tombstones, their inscriptions and the condition of each tomb. A total of 525 tombstones were identified and this survey was used to plan the exhumations which took place from 1920 to 1922. Selby produced his own plan of the cemetery in 1920, where he recorded the names and locations of the remaining graves at the site, as well as the location of graves were the inscription was illegible (Figure 4). He also produced photographs of the cemetery that show graves in the Presbyterian and Church of England areas prior to their removal (Figure 5 and Figure 6). Selby identified 549 graves, 24 more than the Council's survey. The numbers from both these surveys show a substantial reduction from the 855 tombstones recorded on the 1873 plan (GML June 2013, pp. 10-11).

Exhumation commenced in the Jewish section, which took place between September and October 1920. The Jews were meticulous in exhuming all those buried in the cemetery, which was 58 or 59

people, as well as 18 headstones, with the *Argus* noting that the Jewish section was completely cleared of remains (GML June 2013, p. 13).

Planning for the exhumations of other areas of the Old Melbourne Cemetery did not take into account areas without tombstones and only marked graves were exhumed. A survey undertaken in 1918 by Melbourne City Council provided the basis for the planning of the exhumations, which identified 525 tombstones and provided the names of 1017 people buried at the cemetery. An alphabetical list of burials was recorded, denomination by denomination, which provided the grave number from the Old Melbourne Cemetery (1 to 525) with the corresponding grave number at the Fawkner Cemetery, or other cemetery where the remains were to be reinterred (GML June 2013, pp. 12-13). As part of the exhumation process 70 'significant' memorials were identified and relocated to the Fawkner Park Old Pioneers Section (VPRS 9589 Public Record Office Victoria).

Exhumations from the remaining sections of the cemetery occurred between 20 February and 31 March 1922, during which time 886 bodies were exhumed. Under Section 3(1) of the *Melbourne General Markets Land Act* 1917, the Melbourne City Council was required to determine '…the number and position of the human remains interred…' and to '…cause all such remains to be with due care and respect exhumed therefrom' (*Melbourne General Markets Land Act* 1917). The bodies were to be reinterred in the cemetery of choice of identified relatives and the expense of exhumation and reinterment covered by the Council. Section 4 of the Act stipulated that once these conditions had been met, the Governor in Council was free to grant the land for market purposes (*Melbourne General Markets Land Act* 1917). The Melbourne City Council were co- trustees of the cemetery with the Board of Land and Works.

The total number of exhumations from the Old Melbourne Cemetery in 1920 and 1922 was 945, with 449 headstones also moved to Fawkner Cemetery (GML June 2013, p. 13). Exhumed bodies were reinterred at four cemeteries around Melbourne; the Old Pioneers Section of Fawkner Park, Melbourne General, St Kilda and Cheltenham. While it is clear that hundreds of bodies remained buried at the Old Melbourne Cemetery site, the cemetery was formally closed in 1922 and the land formally granted to the Melbourne City Council for market purposes on 15 January 1924. The grant stipulated it included the 'surface and down to a depth of 50' below the surface' of the land (Austral Archaeology 1993).

The Old Melbourne Cemetery Preservation League, led by historian Isaac Selby, lobbied against the closure of the cemetery, the ploughing of the ground, and the removal of human remains to other cemeteries. Sir John Monash also contributed to the fight for the preservation of the cemetery. At a meeting held at the Old Melbourne Cemetery on 25 January 1920 he proclaimed that 'I claim a special right to join in the protest against desecrating this hallowed ground. Here lie buried the pioneers of the life of Melbourne' (Port Phillip Pioneers Group).

Despite these protests however, the work to extend the market over the cemetery grounds continued. A photograph dating to 1923 shows two men levelling the site using a plough drawn by horses (Figure 7). Following the exhumation of the remains and the clearing of the headstones, the cemetery was cleared of all vegetation (Figure 8).
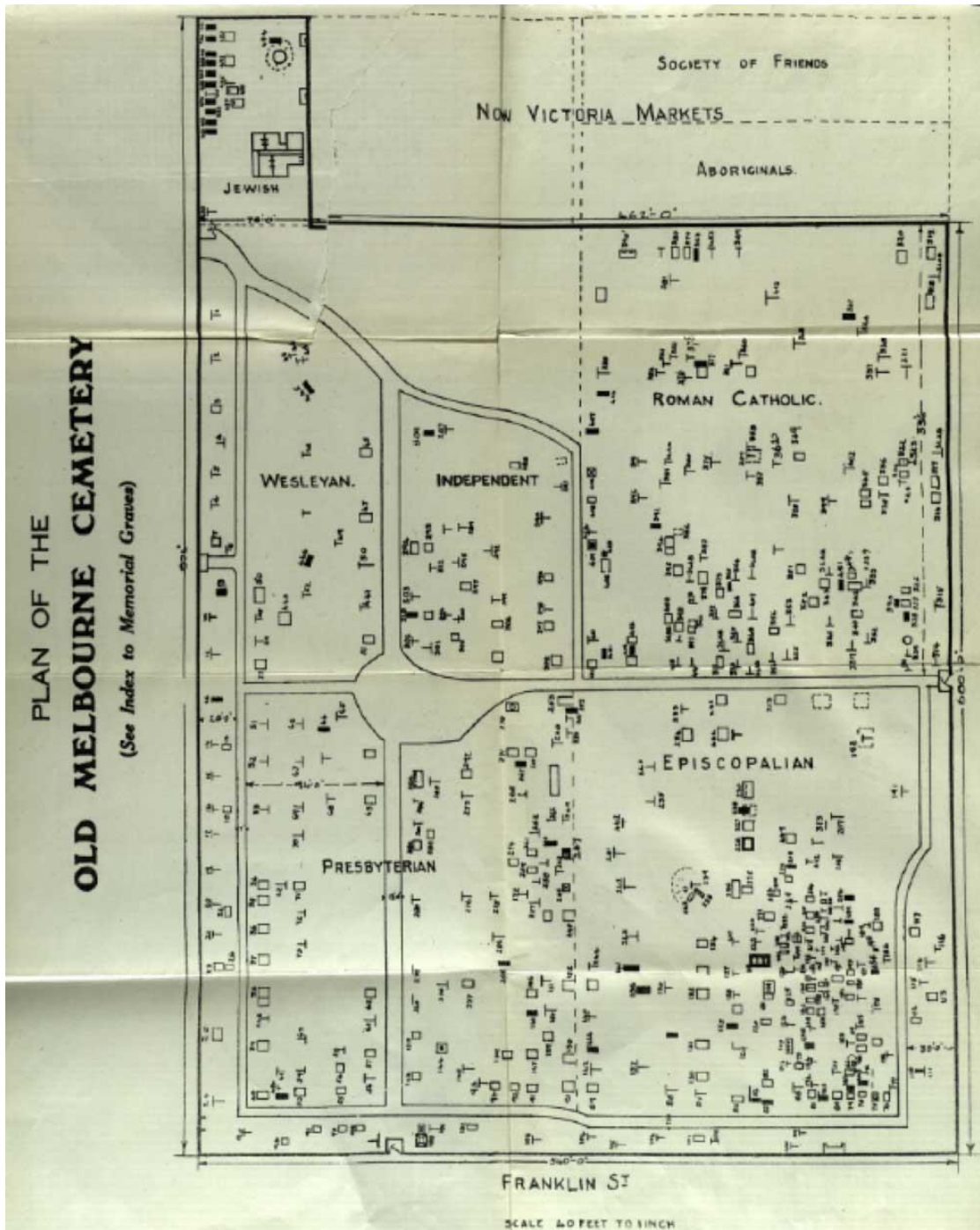
Figure 4 Selby's plan of the Old Melbourne Cemetery, showing the locations of remaining graves at the site, as well as the location of graves where the inscription was illegible, 1920

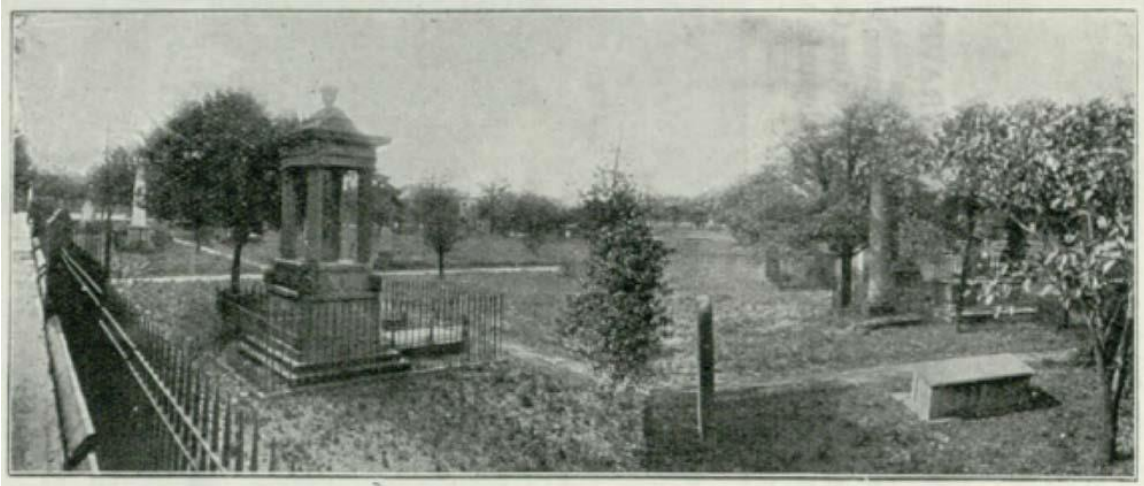Source: *The Old Pioneers Memorial History of Victoria*

Figure 5 View of the Presbyterian cemetery ground, taken from Franklin Street

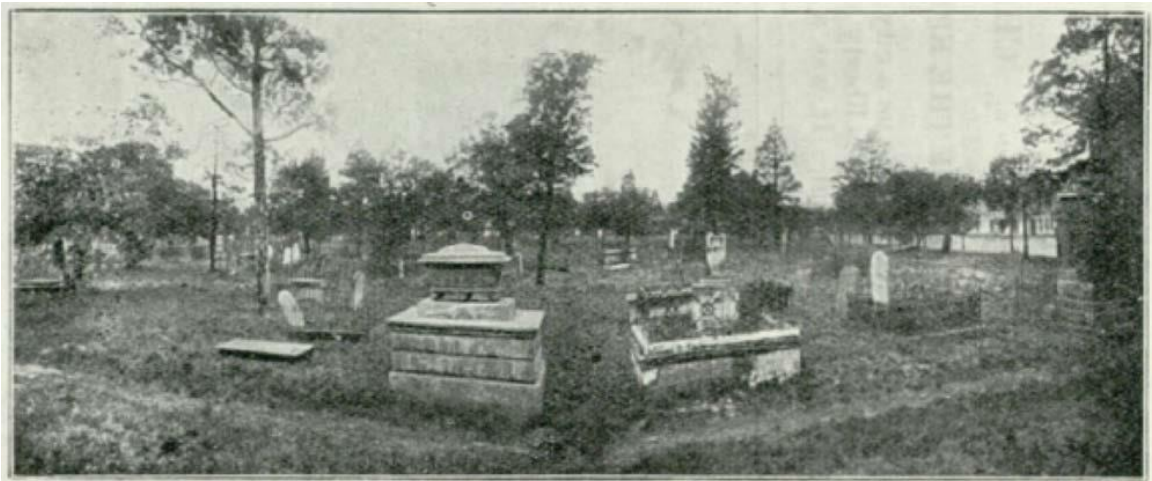Source: *The Old Pioneers Memorial History of Melbourne*

Figure 6 View of the Church of England cemetery ground, taken from Franklin Street

Source: The Old Pioneers Memorial History of Melbourne
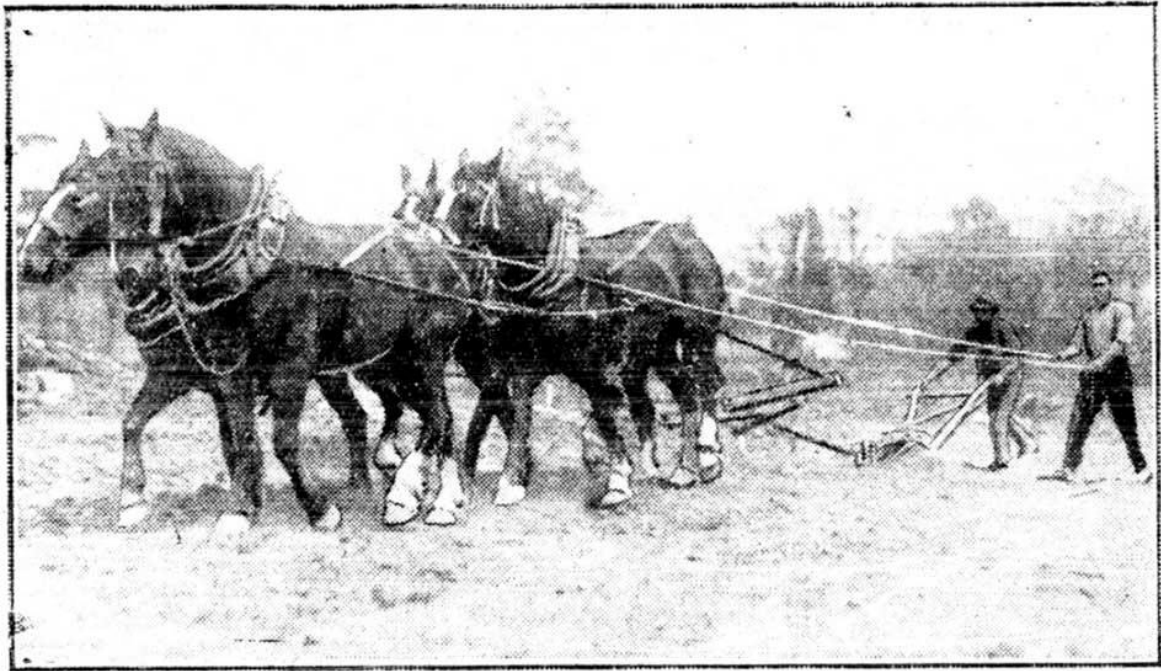
Figure 7 Ploughing the cleared cemetery land in preparation for market extension, 1923

Source: *Argus,* 2 March 1923

Figure 8 Aerial view of the Old Melbourne Cemetery showing the cleared site, 1928

Source: Report of the Melbourne Town Planning Commission, 1929, reproduced in GML, *Old Melbourne Cemetery Information Collation: State 1 Research and Review,* April 2013

The Melbourne and North Melbourne Volunteer Rifle Corps

By the mid-1860s, the area of the planned garden to the north of the Old Melbourne Cemetery had been divided into two blocks (blocks F and G in the Parish of North Melbourne), separated from one another by a southward extension of Cobden Street. The newly created Fulton Street separated the two blocks of land from the Old Melbourne Cemetery to the south.

In 1863, block F was temporarily reserved 'for the use of the Melbourne and North Melbourne Volunteer Rifle Corps' (Victorian Government Gazette 1863, p. 2720 cited in GML Heritage 2016, p. 7). Although the 1865 plan of Melbourne (Figure 9) shows a temperance hall located on block G, research undertaken by GML Heritage (2016) suggests that this hall may never have been built – no record of the hall in street directories, reservation notices, or in the City of Melbourne notices of intent to build index was found. It appears instead that block G was used by, and then reserved for, the Melbourne and North Melbourne Volunteer Rifle Corps (GML Heritage 2016, p. 7). In March 1864, the Corps lodged a notice of intent to build a hall on Queen Street, near the corner with Victoria Street. This was likely the orderly room that is visible on the 1866 isometrical plan of Melbourne (Figure 10). This orderly room was first listed in the Sands and McDougall directory in 1868 with an address of Queen Street, between Fulton and Victoria streets.

In 1870 two portions of block G (which comprised the whole block in total) were reserved for the Corps for use as a parade ground 'for general drill purposes' and for 'orderly-rooms and instructor's quarters' (Victoria Government Gazette 1870, p. 1675, cited in GML Heritage 2016, p. 7). Another notice of intent to build a hall near the corner of Queen and Victoria streets was lodged by the Corps to accommodate this. An 1875 report described the new orderly room as follows:

> The new orderly room, which measures 90ft x 45ft, was erected, together with the drill instructor's quarters, in 1870 at a cost of about £1,200. The old room, which stands to the rear of the new building, cost from first to last (cost of removal from North Melbourne included) about £600 (*Argus* 7 September 1875, as cited in GML Heritage June 2016, p.7).

In 1877, blocks F and G were repurposed for the establishment of the new market, and the orderly room and drill instructor's residence were relocated to the Victoria and Peel streets corner. The relocated structures are present on an 1895 MMBW plan of Melbourne (Figure 11). In 1905, they were again relocated to a site on the east side of Elizabeth Street (GML Heritage 2016, p. 7). The City Council bore the cost of £1,000 of removing the orderly room and other buildings to their new site.

Figure 9 Plan of Melbourne, 1865, showing blocks F and G reserved for the Melbourne and North Melbourne Volunteer Rifle Corps and a Temperance Hall (indicated)
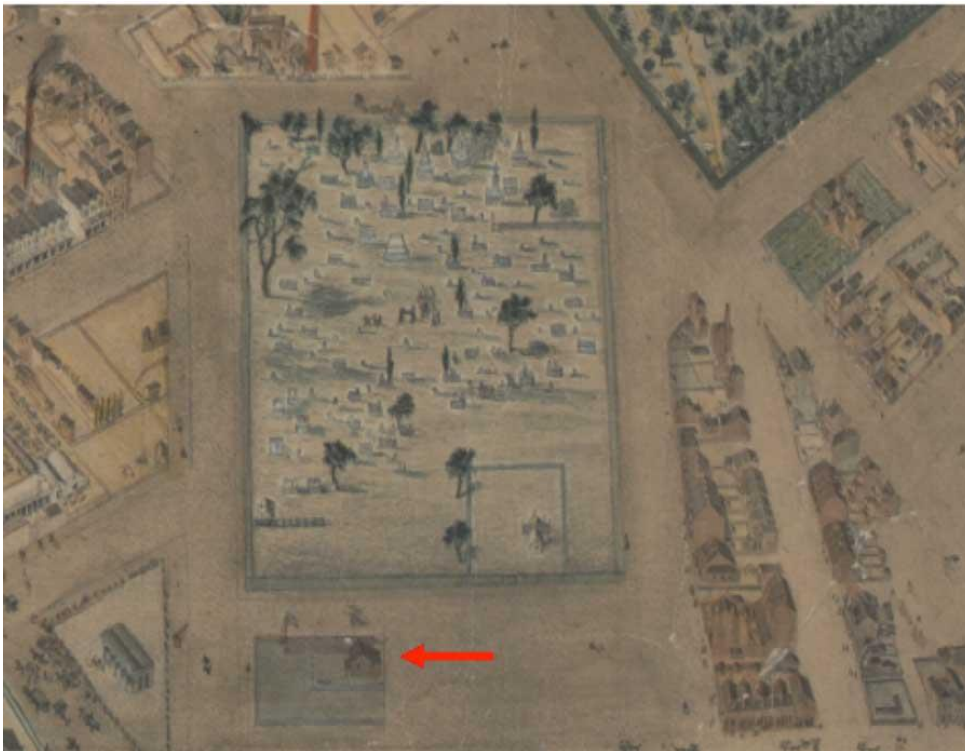
Source: State Library of Victoria

Figure 10 Detail of DeGruchy and Leigh's isometrical plan of Melbourne, 1866; note the orderly room at the bottom of the image (indicated)
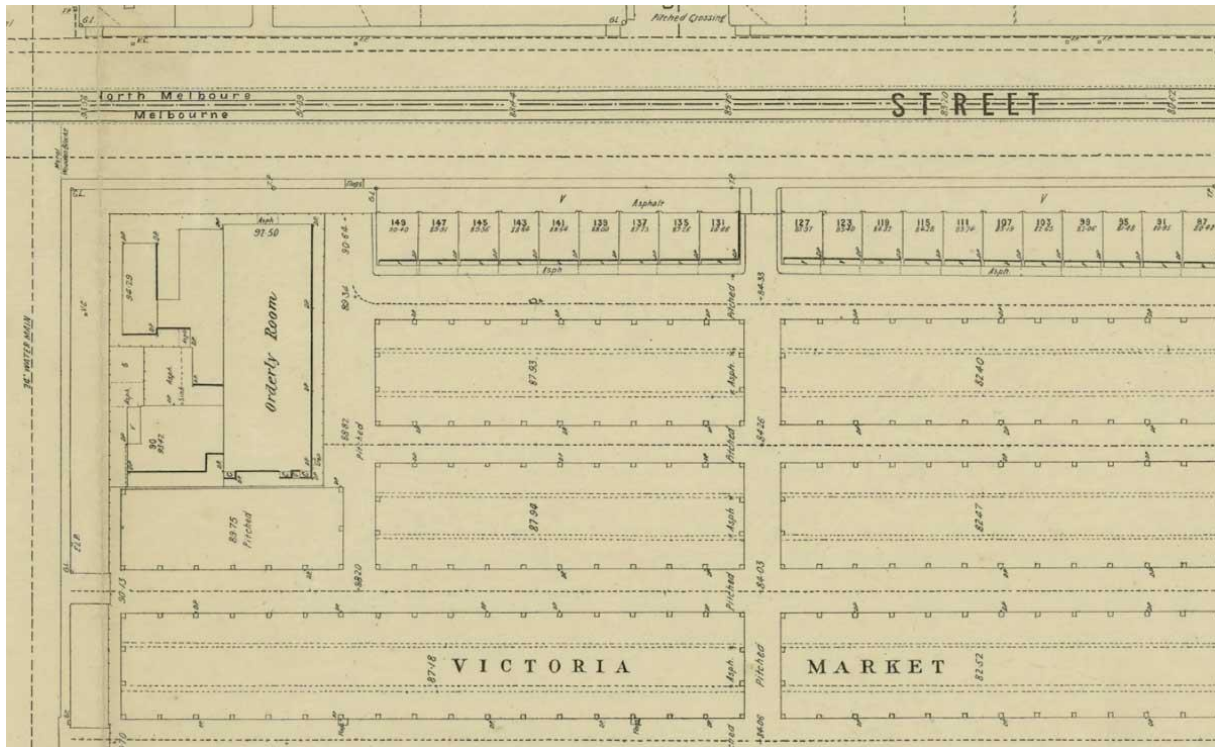
Source: State Library of Victoria

Figure 11 MMBW Detail Plan no. 1026 & 1027 showing the relocated orderly room at the corner of Victoria and Peel streets, 1895

Source: State Library of Victoria

The establishment of the Queen Victoria Market

Today, the Queen Victoria Market comprises two city blocks: the western rectangular block bounded by Franklin, Peel, Victoria and Queen Streets; and the eastern irregular block bounded by Queen, Victoria, Elizabeth and Therry Streets.

The organisation of wholesale markets in Melbourne was regularised in 1841, when the Corporation of Melbourne was formed for the express purpose of operating an official town market (Context 2015, Vol. 2, p.14). This followed a petition by householders to the Police Magistrate, James Simpson, requesting 'An Act to Authorise the Establishment of Markets in certain towns in the Colony of New South Wales (McCaughey & Hoban 1984, p. 123). Approval for the market was granted, with commissioners elected for market management. The City was incorporated in the following year, and control of the markets was transferred to the newly formed Melbourne Corporation, being the Melbourne Town Council on 20 December 1842. Within six weeks the Melbourne Corporation had established the Western Market and selected three other sites for markets. By the mid-1850s, Council had also appointed a market Committee, which was responsible for advising on the operation and development of the various markets around the city (Context 2015, Vol. 2, p.15).

The site adjacent to the Old Melbourne Cemetery was used as a market reserve from November 1847 and a livestock and hay market operated on the area referred to as the Lower Market from 1857 (Context 2015, Vol 2, p. 7). This irregular-shaped site bounded by Elizabeth, Victoria, Queen and Therry streets was granted to the Melbourne Town Council on 2 March 1859 for use as a market (referred to as the Lower Market site). A meat market, constructed by builder, Peter Cunningham, was opened on the site ten years later in 1869.

In 1873, a proposal for a new wholesale fruit and vegetable market to be established on the land to the west of the Lower Market (between the Old Melbourne Cemetery, Fulton Street, and Victoria Street) was put forward. The existing Eastern Market in the CBD was considered inadequate for this purpose as it was becoming too crowded. The proposed location was considered centrally located for people living in central Melbourne, as well as the inner suburbs of West Melbourne, North Melbourne, Carlton, Fitzroy, Collingwood and Brunswick. The land was granted to the Melbourne City Council in 1877 and included 1.75 acres of the Old Melbourne Cemetery. The market constructed on this land became known as the Queen Victoria Market (also referred to as the Upper Market site).

The formal opening of the Queen Victoria Market was celebrated on 20 March 1878. It was presided over by the Mayor, Councillor John Pigdon, Town Clerk, E G Fitzgibbon, and Market Inspector, Mr Donald. At the time of its establishment, the QVM was considered to be an essential part of life in Melbourne. It has continuously evolved and developed since its opening in the 1870s.
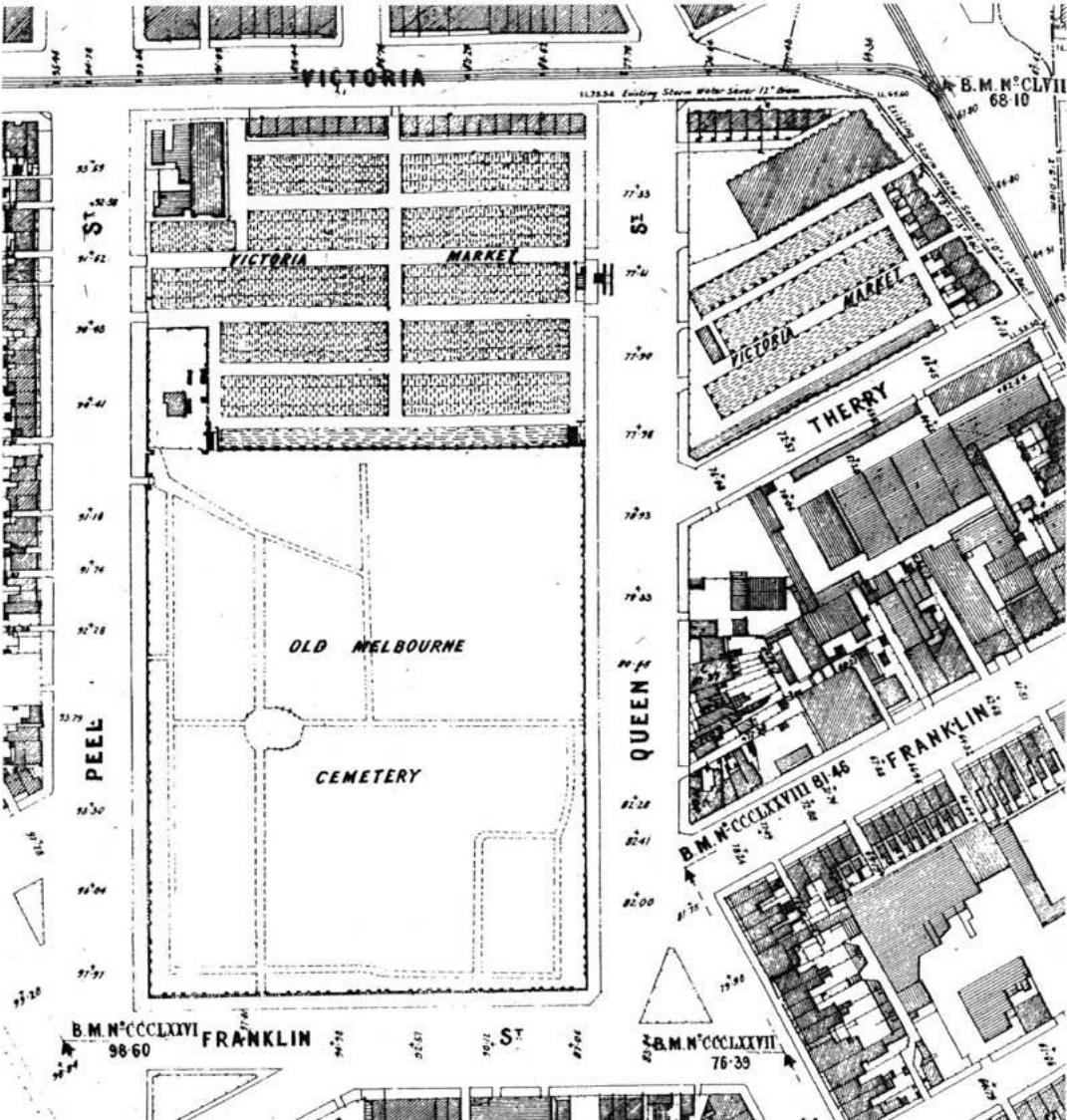

Figure 12 MMBW Plan, 1897, illustrating the first two phases of site development

Source: Lovell Chen archives

The Lower Market phases of development

The Lower Market is the small irregular block of land bounded by Victoria Street, Elizabeth Street, Therry Street and Queen Street. Its phases of development are set out below in chronological order.

1869 – The Meat Market: the earliest surviving building

The building and opening of the first meat market on the Lower Market site preceded the opening of the Queen Victoria Market by nine years. The Government granted the Melbourne Town Council use of the site bounded by Elizabeth, Victoria, Queen and Therry Streets as a market from 2 March 1859. From 1865, the triangular Lower Market site was fenced by the Council and used as a horse, cattle, pig and hay market. The Elizabeth Street land, proclaimed a general market on 29 June 1866, was used to establish a new wholesale meat market. It is believed there were some buildings on the site prior to the erection of the Meat Market building in 1869, but their form and location has not been determined. Therefore, the earliest building of the Queen Victoria Market complex still in use is the Meat Market, located on the corner of Elizabeth and Victoria Streets.

Mr Peter Cunningham's tender for £3,783 for the construction of the Meat Market was accepted in November 1868 (Market Committee Minutes, Public Record Office Victoria). By January 1869 its construction was 'progressing favourably' though there was some difficulty in obtaining the specified 'T' and 'L' iron.   When in May it was nearing completion, an additional £900 was allowed for the cost of fittings which included gas lights.

Prior to its opening, a deputation was made by the carcass salesmen to Council on the letting condition of the new Meat Market. They requested a tap in each stall, a public tap and hose at each end of the building, as well as a set of public scales. A draft code of regulations was approved on 17 August 1869. The hours the Meat Market would be open for business were specified as 4 am to 5 pm between 1 April and 3 September and 1200 noon to 5pm between and 1 October to 31 March. Stalls were to be let to bona fide wholesale meat traders; no more than two stalls would be allocated per individual applicant (Market Committee Minutes, Public Record Office Victoria).

The Meat Market opened for trading on 1 September 1869 (Figure 9), with another deputation by stallholders negotiating revised opening hours. From the end of September 1869 hours were set as – Monday to Thursday 5 am – 4 pm, Friday 4 am – 6 pm, Saturday 5 am – 12 noon (Market Committee Minutes, Public Record Office Victoria).

Further Meat Market buildings were constructed on the site in 1874 when it began operating as a retail market, and again in 1878 to cope with the demand for space. The 1874 and 1878 buildings have not survived and their exact locations are unknown, although the Council's Market Committee minutes refer to the 1874 building being on Therry Street.

In 1880, a Crown grant of land along Elizabeth Street was made to the Melbourne City Council which allowed for this frontage of the market to be improved and formalized. The additional land enabled the original Elizabeth Street façade of the Meat Market building to be replaced in 1884 with the present cement rendered façade of coupled Doric columns, designed by architect, William Salway (Figure 14). The Meat Market has been altered, possibly twice, since 1884 with changes including the bricking-in of some arches and the installation and opening of others. Where the 1928 Dairy Produce Hall abuts the south-east of the building, the original bluestone plinth was cut back and the former external wall rendered and partially tiled. The brick extension to Queen Street was built in 1980-2 and the original entrance doors and surrounds were modified in 1990-95 when the building was extensively refurbished.

The Meat Market was classified by the National Trust in 1973. During the 1980-82 refurbishment of the whole market site, the Meat Market building was extended to Queen Street.
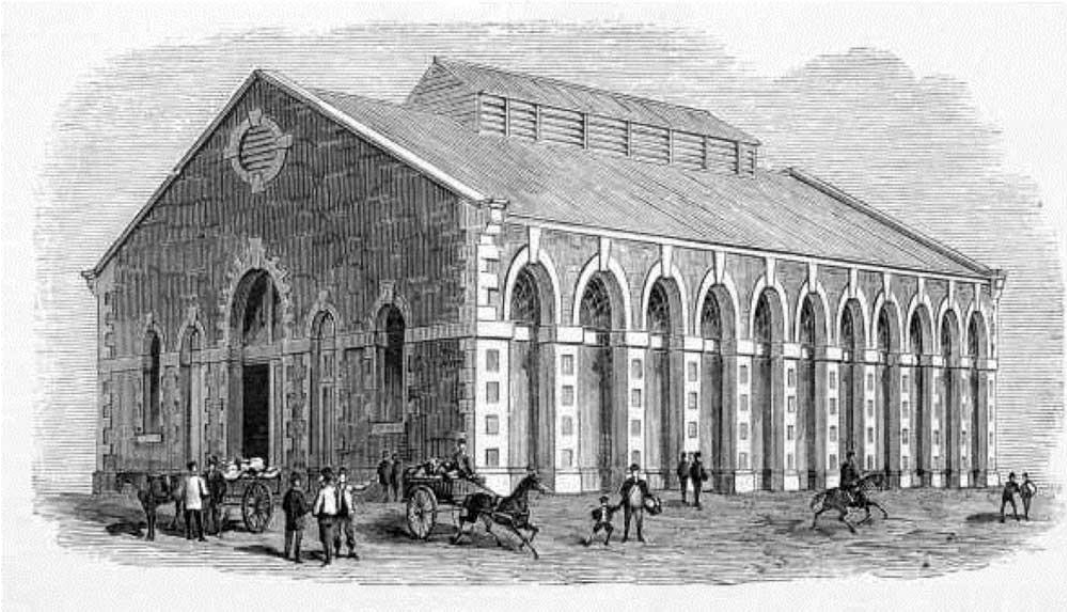

Figure 13 The Meat Market, 1869

Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

Figure 14 Meat Market with new façade to Elizabeth Street, 1969

Source: State Library of Victoria

1877-8 – G, H & I sheds

H and I sheds, on the Lower Market site, are believed to have been built for both wholesale and retail use by fruit and vegetable growers and other traders (Cole 1980, p. 48).   Physical evidence suggests however that H Shed may have been constructed at an earlier date. The iron trusses are typical of late 1850s or 1860s construction, suggesting the shed was already on the Meat Market Reserve or was moved to the site when the other sheds were built. Shed I, however, is essentially the same design as sheds A to E in the Upper Market (discussed below), and was also built in 1877-8. The original G Shed was probably removed from the Eastern Market to the new Queen Victoria Market soon after the construction of I Shed. The original G Shed had a different structural arrangement of posts to the other market sheds, as shown on a 1904 Melbourne City Council drawing for the dismantling of the shed (prior to the construction of a new G Shed structure). The arrangement correlates to the apparent form of half an Eastern Market shed. Following the dismantling of the original G Shed in 1904, it was re-erected in sections along Queen Street behind the Meat Market. The construction of the Dairy Produce Hall in 1928 required the removal of the eastern ends of the early G, H and I sheds. Some of the removed parts were used to extend the sheds at their western ends to the Queen Street boundary line. G Shed was demolished in the 1980-82 renovations to extend the Meat Market to Queen Street.

Stall-holders at the Lower Market site sold goods directly from the back of their carts, later trucks. Although there was some wholesale activity in the sheds, historian Colin Cole believes the Lower Market became a purely retail complex, selling a variety of foodstuffs (Cole 1980, p. 49).   The H and I sheds were renovated in 1982-3 and re-opened in 1984 as fruit and vegetable sheds. A decade later, in 1994, the market began trading fruit and vegetables on Sundays in these sheds.

1884 –Elizabeth Street shops (Nos. 507-23)

In 1880, a Crown grant of land along Elizabeth Street was made to the Melbourne City Council which allowed for this frontage of the market to be improved and formalised. Under the instigation of prominent town clerk, E G Fitzgibbon, the frontage was developed with retail tenancies which provided for greatly increased revenue for the council. Work to the Lower Market at this time included the construction of two rows of four shops divided by a Produce Hall arch, which formed a formal entrance through to the market sheds behind.

The new buildings at 507-23 Elizabeth Street were designed by the architect William Salway and constructed in 1884. The shops were occupied by retailers including a watchmaker, a butcher, tobacconist and a number of tailors and drapers establishments. A post office also operated from No 507. Living quarters, confined to the rear kitchen, yard and first floor, appear to have been occupied by the retailers' families (Gould 1989, p. 12). The most notable occupant of the Elizabeth Street terraces was Dr William Maloney (1854-1940), a humanitarian and politician, who was elected to the Legislative Assembly for West Melbourne in 1889. Maloney campaigned for woman's suffrage, old-age and invalid pensions and the anti-sweating movement (Gould 1989, p. 389).

The Elizabeth Street terraces remained little altered until they were refurbished in 1985-6, with the exception of a small consulting room constructed at the rear of No. 513 for William Maloney and the installation of metal-clad leadlight shopfronts which were progressively added from 1914 until 1926. The works in 1985 involved the interconnection of the first floor level between all but one terrace, to provide offices for Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd and the reconstruction of the verandahs, which had been removed prior to 1956.

1887 –Victoria Street shops (Nos. 65-81)

The Victoria Street frontage of the Lower Market remained largely undeveloped until 1886 when the Markets Committee requested the Acting City Surveyor to prepare plans for two storied shops between Elizabeth and Queen Streets (Gould 1991, p. 20). The following year, nine two-storey terraces were built along the lower section of Victoria Street. They were the first of a long, uniform set of shops, which created an external boundary to the market and continued Fitzgibbon's earlier plan for the perimeter of the site.

From their first year of operation in 1888, these shops were occupied by a range of traders, and included many cafés, dining rooms and a hairdresser. From the outset, these shops were less prominent than the eight two-storey terraces built in Elizabeth Street, however, because the businesses provided convenience outlets for market traders and customers alike, they were well patronised on market days (Gould 1991, p. 20). Like the Elizabeth Street terraces, they were constructed as shops with residences above. However, unlike their Elizabeth Street counterparts, they contained additional entrances which provided access directly from the street to the first floor level.

The terraces were altered in the 1920s when the rear yards were roofed over and a closet was erected beyond the yard. They remained essentially unaltered until the 1994 renovation of the Lower Market and Victoria Street shops, which included the construction of a food court (see 2.5.6 below). As a result of these works, the rear of the ground floor shops were opened to the food court area.

1928-30 – Dairy Produce Hall

The Dairy Produce Hall was constructed in 1928, and required the removal of the eastern ends of the early G, H and I sheds. Some of the removed parts were used to extend the sheds at their western ends to the Queen Street boundary line.

The sale of dairy produce had been an important element of market trade since the market's foundation, however, the merchants had never been accommodated in a purpose built area. They operated from F Shed from 1890 and a dairy produce section at the rear of the Meat Market from 1905. The matter of a separate hall was raised by the Markets Committee in 1922, when it was suggested that competitive designs be called for. The issue was postponed, however, until August 1927 when the existing facilities were proclaimed unsuitable (Robert Sand Pty Ltd 1993, p. 8).   The City Engineer was engaged to prepare plans which were submitted by C H Kemp to the Committee in April 1928. The contract for the Hall (£26,981) and the adjoining electricity substation (£863) was awarded to Simmie & Co. Pty Ltd on September 10, 1928 (Robert Sand Pty Ltd 1993, p. 8).

The Dairy Produce Hall, built in a traditional market hall style, was opened officially by the Lord Mayor and Market Committee on 13 September 1929. It was renovated to its current state in 1982-3 and officially reopened by the Lord Mayor, Cr Kevin Chamberlin, on 15 December 1983. The hall is occupied by a variety of delicatessens, poulterers, specialist shops, patisseries and a wine merchant. (Figure 15).

Figure 15 Dairy Produce Hall, c.1983

Source: Reproduced from *The Queen Victoria Market*

1995 – Food Court

The Queen Victoria Market witnessed increased popularity in the 1990s, becoming an important tourist attraction to Melbourne. With this rise in popularity, the demand for licensed eateries from both local and overseas visitors increased. The building of the Food Court began in 1994 and was completed in 1995. It is a covered space, containing a variety of fast food, cafes and bistros, located in the triangular space between the old Meat Market and the Victoria Street shops.

Upper Market – Phases of Development

According to the Council's by-laws, only the larger, or Upper Market, was originally named the Queen Victoria Market. The development of the Upper Market occurred in parallel with the Lower Market, and is described below.

1878 – Sheds A - F

Tenders for the construction of sheds A to E in the Upper Market were accepted in October 1877 from the builder James Thurgood of Errol Street, Hotham, for the value of £10,422 (Gould 1992). The sheds were built in time for the opening of the market in 1878. The five sheds were constructed parallel to each other and open on all sides. They consisted of two parts, which were divided by a roadway across the site. C Shed was the longest shed constructed, extending through to Peel Street (*Leader* 23 March 1878, p. 10). A description of the new sheds was included in the *Leader* newspaper following the opening of the market in March 1878:

> These sheds are ten in number, of which five, extending nearly to Queen-street, are each
> 204 feet in length. Of the upper five sheds, the centre one abuts on Peel-street and is

289 feet long, and it is flanked on one side by two sheds each 170 feet long, and on the other by two, each 204 feet long (*Leader* 23 March 1878, p. 10).

A narrow, free-standing extension to B Shed was constructed in 1891 and from the early 1900s, further extensions to the market sheds were undertaken. From 1904, sheds A to E were extended to Queen Street (*Age* 7 April 1904, p. 6) and in c. 1905, A Shed was extended to Peel Street. The narrow free-standing structure to B Shed was also likely replaced at this stage and the shed extended to its current dimensions to Peel Street. The present verandahs and parapets were also constructed at this time and the roofs to A to C sheds were extended over the roadways at the western end to provide additional protection to the stall holders' horses (*Age* 26 June 1905, p. 6; *Age* 10 July 1905, p. 6).

The extension of A and B sheds was made possible by the relocation of the orderly room, used by the Melbourne and North Melbourne Volunteer Rifle Corps, to a site on the east side of Elizabeth Street (City of Melbourne, RS2334). In 1922, sheds D and E were extended west to Peel Street over the former cemetery. The market sheds A to E have traditionally been used as the fruit and vegetable market. They were refurbished in 1977, and continue to be operated by fruit and vegetable traders (A and B sheds) and general traders (C to E sheds).

F Shed was built in 1878 as a screen to divide the cemetery from the market; the contractor Thomas Walker & Co. won the contract to build the structure in November 1878. Open along the northern side, it was originally used by fruit and vegetable stall-holders but by 1890 the stalls were occupied by dairy produce traders. The wall of F Shed was opened up in several places in 1923 to provide access through to K and L sheds, which were constructed at this time. It continues to be used for the sale of general goods.

Figure 16 The Queen Victoria Market, showing A to E sheds shortly after construction, 1878

Source: State Library of Victoria Pictures Collection

Figure 17 Sheds A-E, Queen Victoria Market, c.1907

Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

1887-1923 – Victoria Street shops (Nos. 83-129; 133-49)

In 1887, twelve single storey terraces (nos. 83-5 to 127-9) were constructed along Victoria Street, extending from Queen Street to the roadway opposite Cobden Street. Together with the Victoria Street terraces constructed on the Lower Market site in 1887, these continued to form an external boundary of the market to the north. Three years later, in 1890, an additional eight terraces (nos. 133 to 149) and an amenities block were built from the roadway opposite Cobden Street, extending towards Peel Street. Soon after their construction, these terraces were used for fruit and vegetable storage and later for box hire, which pointed to the lack of storage space available at the market.

In 1905 when A to C sheds were extended to Peel Street, a small open market shed was constructed at the western end of the 1890s row of shops to complete the Victoria Street market frontage. In 1922 a convenience block was built within the eastern end of the shed; and in 1923 four additional shops – numbers 153-9 – were built. This completed the building in of the entire block of Victoria Street from Elizabeth Street to Peel Street with retail facilities. All of the shops in the row were refurbished in 1987.

1923 – K – L sheds

K and L sheds were constructed in 1923 to provide an area for the wholesale selling of fruit and vegetables. The sheds run parallel with the Upper Market sheds A to E and were originally separated from F Shed by an internal roadway, which is now covered by the new J Shed. Like the other sheds in this part of the market, the stalls are separated by a central roadway which originally allowed carts and trailers, now trucks, to be parked and unpacked. These sheds were refurbished in 1982 and reopened in December of the same year. They are now used for general market trade.

Figure 18 Victoria Street shops between Queen and Peel streets, 1964

Source: State Library of Victoria

1930 – Franklin Street stores

By 1930 the market's enlargement was almost complete. The southern part of the Old Melbourne Cemetery area had been cleared and new buildings had been constructed on the land. A large steam digger had been used to excavate the site, at which time human remains were unearthed. These were stored in a shed and later placed in boxes to be buried at Fawkner Cemetery (GML June 2013, p. 23)

The present Franklin Street stores were constructed on this land in 1929-30 as part of the Market Square development, at a total cost of £94,759. The Square was designed to accommodate the stores of the wholesale traders and merchants. The Franklin Street stores consisted of sixty brick stores, constructed around the market square. The Square was fenced at either end, with ornamental gates into Queen and Peel Streets. This meant the whole area could be locked up; and it provided some parking space for agents' and buyers' vehicles. The stores were 'solidly-built lock-up units with two frontages, and most had carriageways right through to allow efficient handling of produce' (Cole 1980, p. 61).

Trading commenced in this section of the market in November 1930. In the same year, horses were banned from the market. When the new square was opened for business, the dream of accommodating all components of the Melbourne wholesale market trade on one site had been achieved (McCaughey & Hoban 1984, p. 5).

Figure 19 The Market Square, nd

Source: *Melbourne Markets 1841 – 1979: the story of fruit and vegetable markets in the City of Melbourne*

Figure 20 Aerial photograph of the Market Square shortly after construction, 1931
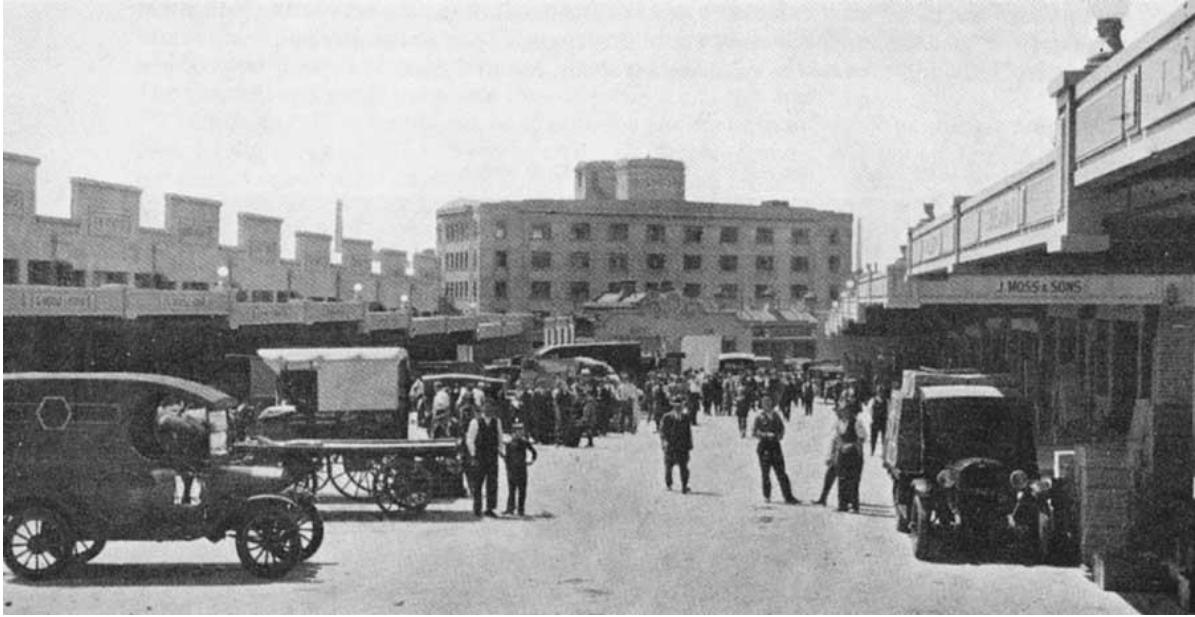
Source: *Melbourne Markets 1841 – 1979: the story of fruit and vegetable markets in the City of Melbourne*

Figure 21 The Franklin Street stores, looking east from Peel Street, 1969
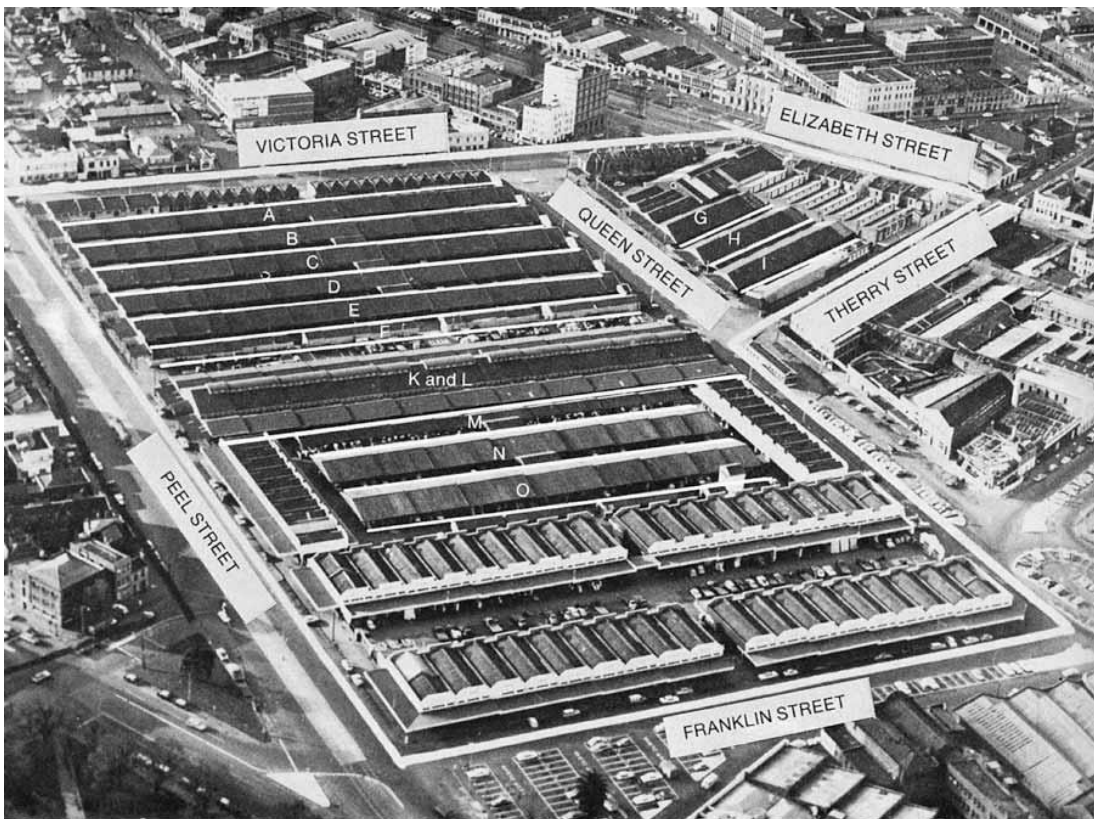
Source: State Library of Victoria

Figure 22 Queen Victoria Market fully developed, aerial view 1936

Source: *Melbourne Markets 1841 – 1979: the story of fruit and vegetable markets in the City of Melbourne*

1936 – M, N & O sheds

Soon after the construction of the Franklin Street stores, M shed was constructed alongside K & L shed in 1936 for the pea and bean merchants. The development also consisted of two additional, larger, cantilevered sheds, N and O, which were built for growers. Sheds N and O were demolished in 1986 to make way for car parking within the market site. Today only M Shed remains and it is used for the market trade of general goods and storage.

1992 – New J Shed

When the new J Shed was built in 1992, archaeological work was undertaken to determine the locations of burials, prior to construction taking place (Cole 1980, p .61). Approximately 150 burials were identified and consequently the footing design for the sheds was modified so that no burials were disturbed. This shed was constructed parallel to F Shed and is the most recent addition to the market shed structures. Like most of the sheds in the Upper Market, this shed is open on all sides, with the exception of the northern elevation, which is bound by the F Shed wall. It is currently used for general merchandise trading.

Changing needs and growing market trade: 1940s to 1960s

By the late 1940s, the size of the Queen Victoria Market and the standard of facilities were seen to be inadequate. As early as 1948 the Melbourne City Council was aware of the limitations of the market and commissioned a 'historical and statistical report' that set out the deficiencies of the site and estimated future requirements (Cole 1980, p. 155). The deficiencies were numerous:

> In addition to the problem of parking, the congestion within and without the market, and the lack of space, there are other disabilities associated with the present market site, such as that most of the buildings are in need of repair, the area is exposed, it is unsightly and difficult to clean… (quoted in McCaughey & Hoban 1984, p. 155)

As a solution, the report recommended the transfer of the wholesale market to a separate site of not less than 52 acres. It also proposed the redevelopment of the old wholesale site as a modern retail market and commercialisation of the Lower Market site (Cole 1980, p. 63). Following further investigation and a report to the Minister of Lands in 1954, the Melbourne City Council granted 50 acres of land on Footscray Road for the development of a new wholesale market in 1956.

By August 1959 Council had announced a £5 million plan to 'streamline the Queen Victoria Market' during the following five years and to transfer the wholesale market to the new Footscray Road site (Cole 1980, pp. 63-4). Objections against splitting the wholesale and retail markets were made by the Victorian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetables Industries. Their objections included the fact that the QVM site was located in a central position (and therefore desirable); that the wholesale section was only 30 years old; that rents at the new market had increased by 600%; that locating the market at Footscray Road would increase traffic on that road; and that the viability of the wholesalers would be threatened because they would be 'by-passed' because of their location (McCaughey & Hoban 1984, p. 156). Widespread debate prompted the State Government to appoint a Market Site Committee to investigate and resolve the issues that had arisen. In November 1961 the Committee submitted its final report. An emphasis on the 'new technological age' that was dawning, and a belief that the fruit and vegetable industry 'needed to be blasted out of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth' permeated the report (McCaughey & Hoban 1984, p. 157).

Objections continued to be made by numerous organisations until the Market Site Committee considered itself in an unenviable position. It finally concluded that no proposed improvements would ever be satisfactory to all parties involved. Transfer to a new wholesale market was therefore justified because the activities of the wholesale market adversely affected the streets and businesses in the vicinity - it was thought to retard the development of this part of the city, with the retention of the wholesale market at the QVM site preventing the development of a retail market for the City of Melbourne. It was also considered that the wholesale market was too close to the centre of the city and occupied land too valuable for the purpose (Interdepartmental Committee 1961, p. 28).

The tension between the market as a public utility and a valuable property was revealed. A myriad of criticisms and objections were soon evident, but were systematically resolved or excluded. In the final analysis, the Committee believed that the retail market would not suffer from the transfer of the wholesale market, and that substantial redevelopment of the Queen Victoria site would be beneficial to all concerned.

1969 – New wholesale market at Footscray Road

Construction of the new wholesale market began in March 1967; the building took eighteen months to complete. It was officially opened by Premier, Sir Henry Bolte on 30 October 1969. A notice in the *Victorian Government Gazette* on 26 November 1969, declared that wholesale trading in fruit and vegetables in or near the Queen Victoria Market was prohibited from 8 a.m. on 29 November 1969 (Cole 1980, p. 66). With this announcement, the central focus of Melbourne's wholesale and retail markets, located within the block between Peel Street, Victoria Street, Therry Street and Elizabeth Street, ceased after almost one hundred years of operation on that site. The wholesale market on Footscray Road officially opened for business on 1 December 1969 (Cole 1980).

The Queen Victoria Market from the 1970s to the 2010s

While negotiations and plans for the building and development of the new wholesale market at Footscray Road continued throughout the 1960s, the Melbourne City Council also explored options for the redevelopment of the QVM site for economic gain. In 1962 a fund had been established with this purpose in mind. The market's city location meant that, in the period of the great economic and land boom of the 1960s, Council held a lucrative asset which might be realised. The market site was assessed in terms of its potential use and the value and function of the market to the City of Melbourne was called into question. The Market Planning Associates, a Government appointed committee, reportedly perceived the site as 'unsightly', in a 'dilapidated' state and 'designed to cater for another age' (quoted in McCaughey & Hoban 1984, p. 157).

In 1968 the Government commissioned the Markets Planning Associates, which was made up of three firms of architects, real estate agents and town planners, to report on the future of the site. Three concepts (A, B and C), which included combinations of an international hotel, small retail market, shops, restaurants and town houses as well as high-rise apartments, were presented to the Melbourne City Council. The project was named 'The Victoria Centre' and the Government planned a major public relations exercise to promote the idea to all interested parties, including the Melbourne community (McCaughey & Hoban 1984, pp. 177-8). Before this was possible however, the confidential report was leaked to the *Age* newspaper in April 1971.

Community reaction was fierce with community groups, individuals, unions and pressure groups all stating their opposition. Notwithstanding community protest at the plan, concept C, the only one without a retail market as part of the plan, was passed through Council. The Keep Victoria Market Association was formed in 1972 and petitioned the Melbourne City Council. The National Trust of

Australia (Victoria) had classified sheds A-F as early as March 1970, and other sections were classified in 1973. The National Trust listing emphasised the significance of the buildings and the site.

Despite Council and Government's 'far sighted concept' to add new life and variety to the western end of the city, the plans they proposed still included mixed commercial usage of the site. However, community agitation, including deputations to Council and State Government, eventually resulted in plans to extensively renovate and conserve the existing market site instead of redeveloping it.

In c. 1975 the northern row of the Franklin Street stores was demolished and public car parking commenced in this section of the site (McCaughey & Hoban 1984, p. 170; Land Victoria Historic Aerial Photograph Library, 1979). The renovation of the QVM site commenced in 1977. The works involved alterations to all the sheds, extension of the Meat Market to Queen Street, renovation of the Elizabeth Street terraces, the Dairy Produce Hall and construction of a number of outdoor plazas around the market site. The following year, the Queen Victoria Market celebrated its centenary. Sunday markets, an innovation conceived in the late 1970s, began in March 1979 and were immediately acclaimed as a success. This reversal of attitude to the market as a site had profound effects on the fortunes of the Queen Victoria Market. Sunday proved to be an extremely profitable venture. However, more importantly, the market as a 'tourist attraction' proved that the dual uses of the market site could achieve the revenue desired by Melbourne City Council. As part of the refurbishment works, in 1980-82, the Therry Street Plaza and Northern Plazas were constructed to accommodate additional outside eating areas.

The renovations carried out in the early 1980s were celebrated with a grand opening to mark the completed refurbishment of the main market buildings. In November 1985, the Victoria Square refurbishment opposite the market in Elizabeth Street and the Therry Street QVM mural were officially unveiled. The Melbourne City Council invited the people of Melbourne to participate in the festivities, and 'acknowledged the public as participants in market affairs' (McCaughey & Hoban 1984, p. 200). In 1989, the QVM site was included in the former Historic Buildings Register under the (then) *Historic Buildings Act 1981*. As a consequence of this listing, the market was transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) under the (current) *Heritage Act 1995.*

In 1990, most of the southern portion of the market site was asphalted for use as a car park. Human remains were uncovered during this process, but it is not known if a formal archaeological investigation took place. Also in 1990, excavation work for the installation of a new fire hydrant near F shed uncovered two bodies, which were subsequently exhumed from the site (GML June 2013, p. 16). In 1991 further archaeological excavations were undertaken to investigate burials remaining under the site prior to the construction of J Shed. A total of 56 in situ burials, and partially and fully exhumed remains were uncovered. Consequently the footing design for J Shed was modified so as not to disturb identified interments (GML June 2013, p. 17).

Also in 1991, the artist-sculptor Mark Stoner was commissioned to create a memorial to the former Old Melbourne Cemetery site and those buried there. Stoner's memorial was designed in the manner of an ancient Egyptian pyramid and is constructed of bluestone, linking the material to the founding of Melbourne (*Passage*, eMelbourne).

Another archaeological investigation was carried out in 1999 in conjunction with a proposal to demolish the remaining Franklin Street stores. This investigation revealed five shallow children's burials in the two small areas tested (Austral Archaeology 2000). The burials were recorded and refilled and demolition of the remaining stores was ultimately not carried out. In 2012, further archaeological investigations were undertaken in connection with a proposed sewer line adjacent to M Shed. Three burials were located and retained in situ (GML June 2013, p. 17).

The following year, the City of Melbourne announced plans for the renewal of the Queen Victoria Market and surrounding precinct to create a world-class market precinct, with better facilities and new public open spaces. The key aim is to preserve the Queen Victoria Market's heritage and traditional market atmosphere, while allowing the market precinct to evolve and meet the contemporary needs of visitors, traders and the growing city. The renewal is proposed to be completed by December 2021 (City of Melbourne).

Chronology of development and events

1836

First burials at 'Burial Hill', now the Flagstaff Gardens

1837

10 acres set aside for the purpose of establishing a cemetery

1839

Cemetery officially declared the Melbourne Cemetery

1842

November 15; first meeting of eight elected Market Commissioners. They selected a number of market sites, one being the Western Market, commonly called Market Square

John Swanston was appointed as Markets Inspector for the period 1842 to March 13, 1848

December 20; Commissioners transferred control of markets to the newly formed Council. Council recommended three market sites:

- Western Market
- Eastern Market
- Cattle Market (southern cnr Latrobe and Spencer Streets),

and reviewed the activities of the hay and corn market (St Paul's Cathedral site).

1847

Eastern Market opened

1850

March 5; Council approved the `leasing of the markets'

The lessee of each market was appointed by the Council as Market Inspector', thus giving the lessee necessary power and authority

May 1; Western Market leased to Mr Colclough

1851

Combined Western and Eastern Market lease granted to George Robinson

1853

Melbourne General Cemetery opened in Carlton

1854

Old Melbourne Cemetery first closed (continuing in some capacity until 1917)

1859

2 March, Lower Market site made available to Council as a vegetable market

1864

Old Melbourne Cemetery reopened

1865

Fish Market building constructed on corner of Swanston and Flinders streets

1866

29 June, Lower Market land proclaimed a general market

1867

Old Melbourne Cemetery closed

12 March, Lower Market permanently reserved for market purposes

1869

19 July, Crown grant for Lower Market land of 2 acres, 1 rood and 21 perches

Meat Market building constructed on Lower Market site, initially used as a wholesale meat market. Commenced operation on 1 September

1874

Meat Market commenced operating as a retail market

1875

A portion of cemetery land (1 acre, 10.75p. in exchange for Bath reserve, King Street) was acquired for the Wholesale Fruit & Vegetable Market (24 December, 1875)

1877

Passing of *Melbourne General Market Site Act* 1877

Construction of market sheds commenced. G, H & I sheds probably constructed first

11 October; Fulton Street and Cobden Street closed, 1.5 acres of Old Melbourne Cemetery site resumed

29 October; contract to Jas. Thurgood for sheds A to E for £10,422

10 November, contract to Thomas Walker & Co. for Shed F for £2,179

1878

F Shed constructed and new area proclaimed 'general market'

March 20; Queen Victoria Market formally opened

1880

1 March; Crown grant of 28p. on Elizabeth Street frontage of Lower Market (which allowed for the construction of the present façade)

1881

Construction of John Batman memorial at Old Melbourne Cemetery

1884

Nine two-storey Elizabeth Street shops, Produce Hall Arch and new front to Meat Market constructed

1887

Nine two-storey shops built on Victoria Street frontage to Lower Market site

12 single-storey shops constructed on Upper Market site along Victoria Street (commencing at Queen Street)

1890

Eight more single-storey shops built on Victoria Street frontage of Upper Market

1891

Shed B extended

1892

Wholesale trading of fish moved to premises on SW corner of Spencer and Flinders streets

1900

July 16; Council approved that Council Officers will collect rent tolls and dues at the Queen Victoria Market, from July 31, 1900

1903

Sheds A to E extended east to Queen Street with verandahs

31 October; Council purchased land occupied by the Melbourne and North Melbourne Volunteer Rifle Corps orderly room (1r.7p.)

1905

Shed A and B extended to Peel Street over former orderly room reserve and smaller shed constructed at western end of Victoria Street shops. Roofs over sheds A-C extended over the roadway at the Peel Street end.

1906

Council approved a new position of Superintendent of Markets

April 15; Council appointed Campbell E. McCay as the first Supt. of Markets

1913

Sections of centre roadway covered over A-E sheds

1915

Parliamentary Standing Committee on railways and Royal Commission on Fruit, Vegetables and Jam both recommended addition of remaining Old Melbourne Cemetery to market site

1917

Remainder of the cemetery land (8.5 ac.) acquired for an extension to the Fruit & Vegetable Market, this being south beyond the F Shed wall, and east of the existing A – F Sheds (via Melbourne General Market Lands Act (No. 2913)

Last burial in Old Melbourne Cemetery

1920

Clearing of Old Melbourne Cemetery commenced

1922

John Batman's body re interred at Fawkner Cemetery. His memorial, which was erected over his grave in 1881 and paid for by public funds, was moved to the bank of the Yarra River

Clearing of Old Melbourne Cemetery completed

Sheds D, E and F extended to Peel Street

1923

K & L Shed constructed for £33,500

Wall of F Shed, originally acting as a boundary between the market and cemetery, opened up in several places to provide access through to new K & L Shed

1924

15 January; Crown grant of 10 ac. 1r. 11p. under Act 2913 – cemetery land officially granted for extension of market

1926

September 27; 118 stallholders selling second hand goods were trading at the QVM, mainly in L Shed

1927

Additional portions of centre roadway roofed over between sheds A to E

1928

Dairy Produce Hall and Therry Street substation constructed

1930

Franklin Street stores constructed at a cost of £94,759. Trading commenced 1 November. Steam digger used to excavate site unearthed many bones, stored in a shed and later placed in boxes for removal to Fawkner Cemetery

Horses banned in Queen Victoria Market

1936

M, N & O sheds constructed. Site now fully developed

1959

August 20; new Footscray Road Fish Market complex opened by Lord Mayor Sir Frederick Thomas and the Premier Mr Henry Bolte

25 August; Council announced its plans to transfer wholesale market to Footscray road site and Chamber of Fruit & Vegetable Industries announced its opposition to the plan

1960

Eastern Market demolished, construction of Southern Cross Hotel commenced

February; Chamber released plan for redevelopment of the QVM site

23 May; Market Site Committee appointed by Government

1961

29 November; Market Site Committee reported to Government

1962

2 April; Victorian Government agreed that Council may plan and construct a new Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market at Footscray Road

1969

October 30; the new Footscray Road Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market was formally opened by the Premier, Sir Henry Bolte

29 November, QVM permanently closed for the wholesale selling of fruit and vegetables

1972

Keep Market Association formed

c. 1975

Northern row of Franklin Street stores demolished and public car parking commenced in this section of the site

1977

Sheds A - F, Queen Victoria Market, refurbished, cost $650,000

1978

April 1; a Government appointed trust took over the operation of the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market

April 30; J Shed demolished

100 year anniversary of the opening of the QVM

1979

March 25; first day of the Sunday Market at the Queen Victoria Market

July 30; Council approved the proposed redevelopment of the Meat, Fish and Dairy Produce sections, Queen Victoria Market, at a total estimated cost of $2.634m

1980/82

Meat Market extended, Therry Street plaza and Northern Plaza constructed

1982/83

H & I sheds and Dairy Produce Hall renovated

1982

K & L Shed refurbished and reopened in December

1983

August; Arthur Young Report produced, recommending new management procedures for the Queen Victoria Market

December 15; Lord Mayor, Cr Kevin Chamberlin opened newly refurbished Meat, Fish and Rabbit section, Dairy Hall, H & I sheds and plaza areas, cost $5m

1984

January 25; first meeting of Queen Victoria Market Advisory Committee. Original members: Crs Brian Bacquie (Chair), Kevin Chamberlin, Ewen Olgilvie and Nick Zervos. Trader representatives were Jim Barwick, David Framan, Don Jago, Joe Zylberg and John Hurlston. Markets Administration: Alan Bramich (General Manager),Laurie Anderson (Manager) and Bernie Dunn (Supt)

January 26; questionnaire to all fruit & vegetable stallholders offering stalls in H & I sheds

April 17; H & I sheds reopened as fruit & vegetable sheds

1985

March; markets transferred to new Property and Markets Division with Richard Stewart as Manager Property, Ian Wilson as General Manager. Bernie Dunn appointed as Markets Manager

1985

Markets Management moved from Council House to 27 Peel Street, former garage building opposite the Queen Victoria Market

First formal CPUs (Casual Priority Lists) introduced at the QVM

October 21; responsibility for cleaning the top market transferred (together with the staff) to the Cleaning Division of Council

Exterior only of two storey shops in Victoria Street and Elizabeth Street (Lower Market site) refurbished. Included construction of verandahs

November 1; official opening of Victoria Square

November 14; unveiling of Queen Victoria Market mural by Minister Evan Walker

1986

Manual collection of market's (QVM & FM) shop rents ceased. Monthly accounts rendered

Markets assumed responsibility for shops on the eastern side of Victoria Square

March; Wine Grape Market moved from N & O Sheds to Arden Street, North Melbourne

March; N & O sheds demolished to make way for car parking

July 23; tenders called for the operation of the QVM car park

September 1; Adams Parking takes over operation of QVM car park

November; Councillor Brian Bacquie resigns as Chairman of the QVM Development (Special) Committee

November; public address system installed at the QVM

December l; refurbishment work commenced, Victoria Street Shops. 83 127, 153-159 Victoria Street refurbished as single shops for retail purpose (all were previously F & V storage or box hire except for food premises in 157 & 159)

1987

February 12; Cr Kevin Chamberlin appointed as Chairman of the QVM Development (Special) Committee

March 4; Markets Management moved from 27 Peel Street to 133 147 Victoria Street to join operational staff

August; fire service installed, A Shed laneway

November 20; refurbished Victoria Street shops opened

December 1; Paramount Parking P/L took over the operation of QVM car park

December 16; Alan Grant appointed as Manager Markets, Bernie Dunn as Manager, Markets Operations

1988

December; Queen Victoria Market Bicentennial Masterplan approved and released

December 3; new Victoria Square shops opened

1989

February 1; installation of drains to Dairy Produce entrances and laneways commences

February 25; leases to all F Shed shops advertised

June 11; Peel Street footway traders relocated due to installation of median strip in Peel Street

1990

February 5; installation of fire service, A-F sheds, commenced

January 15; Elizabeth Street shops refurbishment commenced with provision for Market Management on the 15` floors of 507-521. First floor of 523 remained as storage for chemist shop

February 5; Queen Street, between Victoria and Therry streets, resurfaced

Remains of two young males recovered during the installation of a fire hydrant service in an alley within the F Shed area

1991

March; Markets Management moved from 133-147 Victoria Street to new premises in Elizabeth Street, with 513 Elizabeth Street as a reception and cash/rent receipting

July 15; Laneway west of Dairy Produce Hall, diversion pit installed, laneway resurfaced

November; Therry Street resurfaced

December 6; QVM general stalls offered to long term users

Archaeological investigations undertaken to investigate burials remaining under the car park prior to the construction of J Shed. Approximately 50 burial locations were identified

1992

February; construction of J Shed commenced

May; A to E sheds re-asphalted

October 29; new J Shed opened by the Lord Mayor, Cr Des Clark

November; John Batman's memorial moved from the bank of the Yarra River to the Queen Street site next to M Shed

December 14; Council approved the permanent Sunday closure of Queen Street, between Therry Street and Victoria Street

First Melbourne Food & Wine Festival Hawkers Market

1993

March; F Shed laneway re-asphalted

March; eastern Dairy Produce laneway re-asphalted

March 9; Council approved of a new Local Law and Rules covering the QVM, effective from March 9

April 8; first advertising of stalls, Queen Victoria Market. Expressions of Interest sought for 173 vacant Tuesday (double) stalls at the Queen Victoria Market. 195 applications received from traders inside the market

May 17; new payments system introduced for QVM open standing's, all manual collection of rentals ceased

May 19; QVM general stalls offered to long term users

June 13; second round of Tuesday stalls advertising. 303 internal applications received

July; Queen Street median works (Franklin St to Therry St) commenced, which allowed for the installation of a tourist bus parking zone, and the installation of a traffic barrier near the Queen Street toilets

November 30; Fish Market trading arrangements altered, gates open 5am, entry to agents 5.15am, sales 5.30am

1994

February; renovation of Lower Victoria Street shops and construction of Food Court commenced. Builder was Asset Services, a division of the Commonwealth Department of Administrative Services

February 25; open air café (the Food Court), including placement of chairs and tables, commenced in Dairy Produce laneway

March; H & I sheds re-asphalted

March; planning commences on refurbishment of Meat Market. Don Hurnall appointed as project director and Roman Bugran and Kisandra Hill architects from Daryl Jackson Architects

March 8; artwork `Passages' erected corner Therry and Queen streets

March 3; new K & L Shed walkways opened. New stalls in the walkways named after N and O sheds, which were demolished in 1986

May 13; official unveiling of `Passages' by Commissioner Catherine Walter

July 20; commissioners approved public notices for proposal to corporatise QVM and privatisation or corporatisation of Fish Market

August 6; QVM extends Saturday trading hours to 3pm

August 7; QVM commences fruit and vegetable trading in H and I sheds on Sundays.

October 14; QVM Panel recommends that the Council proceed with corporatisation of QVM

November 1; QVM opened for the first time on Cup Day

1995

January 17; Commissioners resolve to corporatise both markets

March 3; Salzer Constructions awarded the contract for refurbishment of the Meat Market

Food Court development completed

Introduction of market tours

Food Safety Program introduced

Queen Street refurbishment completed

1996

Pedestrian counters installed

1997

September: Market Week co operative event between Melbourne's fresh food markets

December Traders Bulletin first published

1998

March 20; QVM 120th birthday celebration

September; first class in Queen Victoria Market cooking school

November 25; first Night Market

1999

Archaeological investigation in conjunction with proposal to demolish remaining Franklin Street stores. Revealed five shallow children's burials

2004

Restoration of Victoria Street slate roofs (no. 83-159)

Restoration of timber columns to A-E sheds

2005

Drainage works to the Lower Market H & I sheds

2006

Drainage works to the Upper Market

Refurbishment of the Meat Market

Refurbishment of the Dairy Produce Hall

2007

Refurbishment of the Food Court

2012

Archaeological investigations undertaken in connection with a proposed sewer line adjacent to M Shed. Three burials located and retained in situ

2013

City of Melbourne announced plans for the renewal of the QVM and surrounding precinct